

Appl. No. 09/685,199
Amendment dated May 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2004

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE

In view of the comments below, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application, as amended, and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has noted that the information disclosure statement filed on November 6, 2000, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2). He has indicated that the information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but has not been considered.

Applicants acknowledge this and are in the process of preparing a new information disclosure statement, including a form PTO 1449 listing the cited documents, with which they will file copies of the cited documents. Applicants will file a copy of this information disclosure statement within the next day or two.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of some informalities. In particular, he requested that the application numbers listed in the specification as "XX/XXX,XXX" be updated to indicate the current status of these cases.

By this response the applicants have amended the specification to update the status of the related application mentioned in the specification by filling in all known serial numbers.

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Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-120 are allowable. Applicants acknowledge the allowability of these claims.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any suggestions, comments, or questions, call are welcome at the telephone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any additional fees are due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully Submitted,


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Date: May 24, 2004

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